

The Bible Overview Part 4: TYPOLOGY



The Ace of Immutability (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8)

The Scroll of Time

Exile Moses Church Creation Isaiah Exodus David Judges Fall Jesus Abraham Solomon New-Creation Temple Ezekiel

Worship at Sinai; Tabernacle; 40 years in the wilderness; Conquest under Joshua; Elijah and Elisha

The Envelope of Fulfilment

Typology is about spotting what casts a shadow

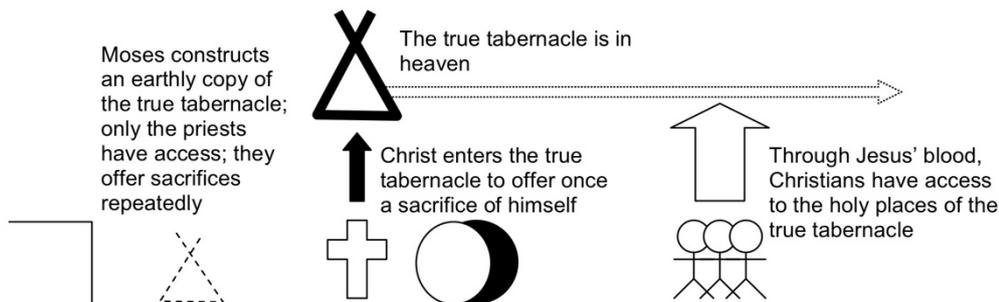
The New Testament authors make frequent use of typology, or hyperlinks. There are dangers of using typology. But the dangers of *not* using it are greater.

Moses' childhood Marriage Noah's Ark Water from the Rock Floating Axe Head

The tabernacle is a shadow of ...

<i>The design of the lampstand (Exodus 25:31-40).</i>	<i>The power of the Spirit of God to bring order from chaos (Genesis 1:2).</i>
<i>God 'says' things seven times (Exodus 25:1, 30:11, 30:17, 30:22, 30:34, 31:1; 31:12) and the seventh one has something to do with Saturdays.</i>	<i>Cherubim guard the entrance to the garden (Genesis 3:24)</i>
<i>The embroidery on the curtain that screens off the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:31-33).</i>	<i>God 'finished', 'saw' and 'blessed' his work (Genesis 1:31 - 2:3).</i>
<i>Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, and the reason behind his genius - let's face it, had Bez been around when they were interviewing for the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo would have ended up on the dole (Exodus 31:1-11).</i>	<i>The garden has rich mineral resources including gold and precious stones (Genesis 2:12)</i>
<i>The lavish materials used for the priests' clothing (Exodus 28:15-30).</i>	<i>There is a tree of life in the middle of the garden (Genesis 2:9)</i>
<i>Moses' actions at the end of the construction project (Exodus 39:32-43).</i>	<i>God made the world in six days by speaking, and rests from all his work on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3)</i>

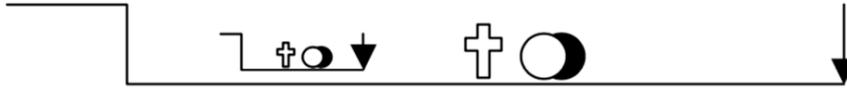
But also Hebrews 9



The generation that died in the wilderness is a shadow of those who don't persevere

They were slaves ⇒ but were redeemed ⇒ to be God's people ⇒ awaiting the promised land

We were slaves ⇒ but were redeemed ⇒ to be God's people ⇒ awaiting the promised land



How do the Covenants fit together?

LUTHERAN *The gospel frees us from the law*

Abraham (unconditional) vs. Moses (conditional)
New (unconditional)

REFORMED *The gospel frees us to keep the law*

Noah (salvation by faith, demonstrated in obedience)
Abraham (salvation by faith, demonstrated in obedience)
Sinai (salvation by faith, demonstrated in obedience)
Kings (salvation by faith, demonstrated in obedience)
New (salvation by faith, demonstrated in obedience)

1. Salvation has always been by grace alone, including at Sinai

See the zero-th commandment (Exodus 20:1)

2. Faith has always been demonstrated in obedience

Rahab was “justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way” (James 2:25) which is another way of saying that “by faith [she] did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies” (Hebrews 11:31)

3. Disobedience has always signalled unbelief, bringing judgment

The Israelites grumbled in the wilderness and were not able to enter the land (Numbers 13-14). Hebrews warns new covenant people that the same “disobedience” or “unbelief” will stop them entering God's rest (Hebrews 3-4; see also John 15:6; Galatians 5:21; Revelation 21:8)

NB sin is not the same as apostasy

4. So why did we need a New Covenant?

Before we had only “a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ” (Colossians 2:17 cf. Hebrews 10:1). It was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats by themselves to forgive sins; we always needed the fulfilment.

The people kept breaking the Old Covenant. We needed the law to be written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31) and for the Spirit to live within us to cause us to keep God's laws (Ezekiel 36).

5. What had the Judaizers got wrong in Romans/Galatians?

“He who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law [a Gentile Christian] will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law [a legalistic Jew]” (Romans 2:27). So the law isn't intrinsically unkeepable. It's just unkeepable without Christ.

“For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” (Romans 10:3-4). The problem with the legalist is not that he likes the law, but that he tries to establish his own righteousness by means of the law, instead of by faith in Christ.

Elijah and Elisha are a shadow of John the Baptist and Jesus in oh so many ways...

Elijah ⇒ Elisha